



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Taggart  
Serial No. : 09/330,763

Examiner: Soubra, I.  
Art Unit: 1744

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Dkt. No.: STEU-2666

Title: Apparatus and Method for Providing Sterilization Zones in an Aseptic Packaging Sterilization Tunnel

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of January 26, 2001, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

In the Claims

1 1. (Original) Apparatus comprising:

2 a sterilization tunnel for surrounding a plurality of  
3 containers with pressurized gas; and

4 a plurality of zones within a sterilization tunnel having  
5 different sterilant concentration levels.

1 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality  
2 of zones have different gas flow rates.

1 3. (Original) Apparatus comprising:

2 a sterilization tunnel for surrounding a plurality of  
3 containers with pressurized gas;

4 a sterilant supply source to supply sterilant into the

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